

brief history

The redevelopment and concurrent environmental restoration of the Washington Navy Yard, growth of its federal workforce, and a sincere desire by the community and the Navy to work together, inspired the founding of Bridges to Friendship.

In response to community concerns, the Navy sought to leverage Washington Navy Yard redevelopment and environmental cleanup into jobs for local residents.

In 1997, the partners agreed to maximize this opportunity into a broader sustainable approach to revitalize the entire community.

Formalized through a simple partnership agreement and based on a strategic plan, Bridges to Friendship launched workgroups in July 1998, focusing on community outreach, youth outreach, job training and career.



contact information

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what is Bridges to Friendship?

Bridges to Friendship (B2F) is a diverse group of community organizations working together to revitalize the community and steer the redevelopment and environmental restoration, in and around the Washington Navy Yard. It was founded on the premise that nongovernmental organizations, private enterprise, and District of Columbia and Federal government agencies can better use their services by collaborating, identifying, and connecting existing resources and expertise.

what does B2F do?

B2F acts as a catalyst and broker, pooling resources from different organizations to focus on common goals. We are pursuing goals in four focus areas: (1) Community Outreach, (2) Youth Outreach, (3) Job Training and Career Development, and (4) Business Development.

business and B2F mutual benefits

B2F partners range from the U.S. National Park Service to Covenant House Washington, from STRIVE DC, Inc. to D.C. Department of Employment Services. The B2F partnership provides a just-in-time community outreach network—at your service.

B2F...

- Asks employers what their workforce needs and specific workforce requirements are—employers may use B2F as a mechanism to tailor publicly funded workforce development programs to their needs.
- Creates a “working forum” for businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations to learn, teach, and team with one another.
- Views business as the driver of the economic engine that is transforming Southeast and Southwest DC—the same economic engine that depends on a capable workforce to succeed.
- Focuses on Southeast and Southwest DC—much of our target area is in Enterprise and HUB zones, which offer tax incentives to encourage local employment and small businesses development.
- Takes a “sector” approach to job training. While our candidates receive “life skills and job readiness training,” which enables them to move into a broad array of jobs, we focus specifically on these employment areas: (1) Environmental, (2) Building Trades, (3) Food Service, (4) Information Technology, and (5) Day Care.

B2F envisions training-to-employment pipelines for each of our sectors, to link existing resources, programs, and expertise. While our partners have the workforce candidates, training resources, and expertise, the employer piece of the pipeline is incomplete—we need you on board. Please join with us in our commitment to the communities along the Anacostia River, the new soul of Washington DC.



B2F is a way of doing business

Covenant House Washington and Naval District Washington, two very different partner organizations, include B2F in their strategic planning:

“B2F is a way to integrate and leverage resources inside the gate with those outside the gate. It’s a better way of doing business and it improves the quality of the workplace for Navy. It is also the right thing to do. Navy has committed to this community that we will endeavor to help them rise with the tide of redevelopment.”

Rear Admiral Christopher E. Weaver
Commandant, Naval District Washington

headlines

Our Environmental Trainees are working at the Pentagon cleanup and the Brentwood Postal Facility Anthrax decontamination site.

Over 170 students have been trained to date, over 70% have been placed.

Science and Technology for 5th Graders: Starbase Atlantis launched from Washington Navy Yard.

Bridges to Friendship facilitated presentation by HUD Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business to DC Chamber of Commerce members.

Extending the Partnership to the Workforce Organizations for Regional Collaboration (WORC) and the Compass Group.

on the horizon

B2F is in discussions with major food service employers and food service training organizations; please contact us.

B2F is working to support the launch of a community (citizen, non-profit, business, and government) web-based network that will include business features like co-op marketing and collaborative rebate programs; please contact us to participate.